

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been examined. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 1-20 in a divisional or continuation application.

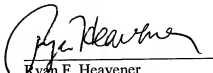
Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview of August 11, 2008, during which claims 1 and 7 were discussed in view of Cothorn (US 6,154,560). In particular, Applicants discussed amending claims 1 and 7 to change “clinical results” to “pathological examination results.” The Examiner disagreed that this amendment would be sufficient for overcoming the present rejections.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 21-24 are allowable. Since claims 21-24 are the only claims remaining in the present application, Applicants submit that the application is in a condition for allowance. That is, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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